

**RELATED TERMS**

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## PRACTICE NOTE

### Exercise Logistics: Westmoreland, Pennsylvania's Refreshment Distribution

**PRACTICE**

The Westmoreland, Pennsylvania Department of Public Safety works with the Salvation Army to provide boxed meals for exercise participants at the end of full-scale exercises. This practice increases the likelihood of players remaining for the exercise hotwash.

**DESCRIPTION**

Exercise planners face the challenging task of providing efficient and cost-effective meals for volunteers, actors, and participants during a full-scale exercise. Planners must also ensure that exercise players remain at the venue following an exercise to participate in the hotwash, a critical component of the exercise evaluation process. To address these issues, the Westmoreland Department of Public Safety contacted food-services representatives from the Salvation Army to discuss options for a post-exercise meal. The Department also invited the Salvation Army to participate in exercise planning meetings.

For each Westmoreland County full-scale exercise, the Salvation Army now provides food service for participants at the end of the day. The organization operates a line for boxed-meal distribution for 1 hour after the exercise. The exercise hotwash immediately follows the distribution of food in order to encourage participants to remain for the final segment of the exercise. In addition to providing a meal, the Salvation Army also provides snack vans at each exercise venue available to participants throughout the day. The Salvation Army provides this service to Westmoreland County for less than \$2,500 per exercise for 250-500 participants.

The Westmoreland, Pennsylvania Department of Public Safety successfully addressed two challenges faced by exercise management officials: the distribution of food to exercise participants in an efficient and cost-effective manner, and the need for exercise participants to contribute to the exercise hotwash.

**CITATIONS**

Matason, Rich. Director, Westmoreland County Department of Public Safety. Interview with *Lessons Learned Information Sharing*, 18 Aug 2006

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